



Welcome to the third edition of the ERA-NET Bioenergy Bulletin

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Agenda: Upcoming meetings in 2009

Date	Meeting title	Location
22 nd - 24 th June 2009	Project Committee (PC) meeting	Finland
29 th June - 2 nd July 2009	17 th European Biomass Conference	Hamburg
September 2009	SET Plan meeting + possible MB meeting and Forest-based Feedstock workshop	Stockholm
December 2009	Project Committee (PC) meeting	Poland

For more information: <http://www.eranetbioenergy.net>

Welcome to ERA-NET Bioenergy

ERA-NET Bioenergy is a European project devoted to a structured cooperation of Member States national agencies and Ministries responsible for coordinating and funding national research efforts in bioenergy. Collaborative research efforts not only lead to higher quality, but also to cost-effective results, contributing to a greener and more secure energy infrastructure, thus preserving valuable fossil fuels for generations to come. An important challenge of ERA-NET Bioenergy is to create joint work packages on a solid review of national bioenergy programmes.

Partners

SenterNovem	The Netherlands
Ministry of Economic Affairs	The Netherlands
Tekes	Finland
Swedish Energy Agency	Sweden
BMVIT	Austria

FFG	Austria
Austrian Energy Agency	Austria
FNR	Germany
BMELV	Finland
EPSRC	UK
Energinet.dk	Denmark
ADEME	France
NCBiR	Poland
SEI	Ireland

Goal

The goal of the ERA-NET Bioenergy network is to strengthen national bioenergy research programmes through enhancing cooperation and coordination between national agencies and governments. Through collaboration, the individual national programmes will produce higher quality results, while through coordination; they will seek to compliment each other, avoiding duplication.

Mission

ERA-NET Bioenergy's mission is to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of European bioenergy research programmes through coordination and cooperation between Member States.

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News from ERA-NET Bioenergy

ERA-Net Bioenergy gets the green light to continue

The green light has been given for continuation of this European collaboration on bioenergy research. Besides finalising some activities already started during 2008, new joint work programmes on synthetic natural gas, forest-based biomass and liquid biofuels will be launched, and the SET Plan will be followed closely looking at how to embed ERA-Net Bioenergy into this plan. In addition joint programming is being investigated with the Technology Platform Biofuels (see section entitled: Joint Meeting ERA-Net Bioenergy and the Technology Platform Biofuels and biomass pre-treatment – developing joint programming (31st March 2009, Dublin).

To date ERA-Net Bio energy has succeeded in setting up 3 Joint Calls. The Joint Call on small-scale combustion is now complete and the final report will soon be downloadable from the ERA-Net Bioenergy site. Also the JWP on Modelling and Priority setting has been finalised and the report is available for download. The Joint Calls on gasification gas cleaning and on short rotation coppice are still running and will be completed by 2010-2011. The Joint Call on Clean Combustion was launched on 9th February 2009 and closed on 30th April (see section entitled: Joint Call on Clean Combustion for more information).

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ERA-Net Bioenergy expands welcoming SEI, Ireland and NCBiR, Poland as new members

"Bioenergy development in Ireland is at an early stage, particularly when compared to other European countries, although there is some significant Irish research activity in this area. Through participation in ERA-Net Bioenergy, we can learn from the experiences in other countries in developing our bioenergy research capacity. At the same time, we will be able to make important contributions to European development based on our existing research capacity in a number of fields across the bioenergy research spectrum. We are therefore delighted to be part of this important European network."



Pearse Buckley, SEI, Ireland

Poland, being the Member State of the European Union since 2004, undertakes initiatives within the area of science and development towards comprehensive realization of the Lisbon Strategy, mainly within the range of the research results transfer into the industrial sector. Economic development may not take place at the expense of the loss of natural resources. The implementation of the idea of sustainable development is an essential step towards the harmonization of the economic and social goals with the main objectives in the environment protection. The analysis has been recently undertaken shows that warranting of the biomass for the Polish energy sector will require transference for this purpose app. 500 000 ha of arable lands before 2020. The establishment of plantations in this range is supposed to result in investments in a sum of app. 1 milliard Euros (that part of which will be refund by the EU). There will be necessity to carry out various research projects, educational activities and marketing encouragements, that will cost app. 370 million Euros per year.

"The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR), professional governmental institution, funds research projects within the area of environmental – friendly technologies that are well defined as the strategic research programmes in the National Scientific Research and Experimental Development Programme. One of the priority tendency is development of the alternative energy resources and clean means of transport using the renewable energy. By participation of NCBiR in the ERA-NET Bioenergy the enhancement of co-operation between research units and co-ordination of joint activities on the Community level will become possible, and will lead in the direction of comprehensive implementation of the EU's renewable energy strategy."



Anna Ostapczuk, NCBiR, Poland

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Joint Meeting ERA-Net Bioenergy and the Biofuels Technology Platform on Biofuels and biomass pre-treatment – developing joint programming (31st March 2009, Dublin)

On 31st March the first ever joint meeting between ERA-Net Bioenergy and the Biofuels Technology Platform was held in Dublin. This joint meeting focused in particular on biofuels

and biomass pre-treatment and investigated further the need for cooperation between European industries and Member States, and how to realise this.

Biomass pre-treatment plays a crucial role in the production, storage and transportation of bioenergy carriers/ feedstocks for bioenergy/biorefinery, offering a higher energy density. In addition more homogeneous and stable physical & chemical characteristics are required to realise the value chains.

During this joint meeting presentations were given on the results of national projects funded in the area biofuels and biomass pre-treatment. Mr. José Ruiz Espi from EC DG Research was also invited to give a presentation on some concepts of the SET Plan. In order to be effective in its implementation, the SET Plan will act together with existing instruments and tools - for instance ERA-Nets, ETPs, NoEs, European Industrial Initiatives: the European Energy Research Alliance. Mr. Ruiz Espi described this joint meeting as an example of cooperation between different structures (new and pre-existing). He explained that the Commission will be interested in the outcome: an example of how interactions can be established. Mr. Ruiz Espi explained that the Steering Group of the SET Plan has a strategic objective to include joint programming. It will of course be necessary to establish who is going to define the goals in joint programming, and to define how these goals are going to be achieved. One approach could be to use value chains.

Birger Kerckow of the Secretariat of the European Biofuels Technology Platform gave a presentation on overcoming the challenges of developing sustainable biofuels: biomass pre-treatment as a topic for nationally funded R&D activities. The main conclusions drawn were that European ambitious goals for climate and energy policy are calling for step change innovation in bioenergy/biofuels value chains. The SET-plan proposed European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI) is aiming at delivering such progress. Preliminary identification of value chains of potential relevance to EIBI is pointing to the need for further development and demonstration of critical and core technologies. Industrial leadership backed by strong support from EU and Member States will be essential to manage the risks and secure financing. Contributions from all key stakeholders of the biofuels/bioenergy value chains will be needed: biomass supply, industrial deployment, research and technology development, sustainability assessment. Pre-treatment of biomass could fill the gap between purely national activities and the larger scale EIBI activities.

These presentations were followed by a discussion on some first potential topics for joint programming. The topics included:

1. Agricultural or Forestry for Fermentation;
2. Agricultural or Wastes for Anaerobic Digestion;
3. Forestry or Agricultural for Thermal conversion;

The group was split into two smaller groups who both focussed on different topics.

The results were that both topics addressed by both groups A and B merited sufficient value to continue further exploration into joint programming. It was felt that a draft "starting" document would be necessary to point these joint programming topics in the right direction, and with the view to organising a joint workshop between ERA-Net Bioenergy and the TP Biofuels to propose joint programming.

It was concluded that this joint meeting provided a good starting point in an attempt to adapt to the new European research panorama. The joint meeting led to a focussed result and according to José Espi Ruiz, "we are on the right track; these ideas fit in with the SET Plan".

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Joint Call on Clean Biomass Combustion

During 2008 internal discussions took place amongst ERA-Net Bioenergy members and an internal agreement was reached on the need to open a joint call on "clean biomass combustion"

At the end of 2008 an international workshop was held, with external European experts, to further define the scope and sub-topics of the joint call. Four topics were identified as follows:

Topic 1: Modelling of the combustion process;

Topic 2: Advanced characterisation and relevant standardisation of biofuels;

Topic 3: Technology development for fine particle and NO_x reduction (< 20 MW_{th});

Topic 4: Health effects of small scale combustion (< 3 MW_{th}).

The call opened on 9th February 2009 and closed on 30th April 2009. A total of 11 projects were received in which 10 countries were involved (7 ERA-Net Bioenergy participating countries + Germany + Norway + Switzerland). The selection process is now in progress and the jury will meet in June 2009 in Turku, Finland, where projects will be evaluated and ranked. In September final decisions will be made on which projects to fund. A kick-off meeting will be held in October/ November.

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Summary of Conference in Amsterdam, October 2008

In October in 2008 a conference was held entitled - Pulling bioenergy research together – the achievements so far and potential for even greater success. The goal of the conference was to showcase the achievements so far and to discuss how to continue with this unique European collaboration.

The morning session focussed on the achievements so far and focussed on the three joint calls; one launched in 2006 on small-scale combustion; one on gasification launched in 2007, and one on short rotation coppice launched in 2008.

The afternoon session was devoted to the continuation of this unique European collaboration, looking at opportunities for new joint calls and the whole picture how ERA-Net Bioenergy can best fit into the European Strategic Energy and Technology (SET) Plan, and how it can cooperate with other existing bioenergy networks.

The conference was mainly targeted at the decision makers who organise research on bioenergy in the national Member States and in Europe, wishing to contribute to a deeper, more structured and cost-effective cooperation on bioenergy research in Europe. Some 54 participants attended the conference from all ERA-Net Bioenergy Partner countries ranging from representatives from Ministries, the European Commission DG Research, the ERA-Net Bioenergy Management Board and Project Committee, to managers of research programmes and research institutes and bioenergy related industry.

Some feedback responses from researchers to the evaluation of the ssc call were presented. For example when asked whether the Partners knew each other before starting the project, the answer given was that all international partners were new acquaintances.

In answer to the question: "Has the cooperation made your own research more effective? the following responses were given:

"Yes definitely the international know-how and experience transfer was really very efficient and positive".

"The management by ERA-Net Bioenergy has been very smooth and easy, especially compared to large EU projects where there is too much bureaucracy".

"The whole concept is really working as intended. The project generates more results per unit of time".

The cooperation is very fruitful for PhD students. They get to know a lot of researchers in a short space of time".

"We have many good ideas and help from other Partners. Cooperation has been very good".

When asked, "Will you continue to work with your partners?" the replies given were as follows:

"We want to continue and also have defined relevant topics for a further R&D projects, but an appropriate ERA-Net would be very important and needed".

For a summary of the conference and for all presentations given at the conference please visit our website <http://www.eranetbioenergynet.net/>

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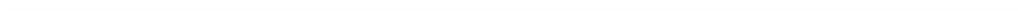
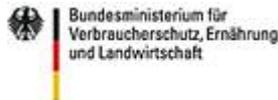
ERA-NET Bioenergy



ERA-NET Bioenergy's mission is to enhance the quality and cost-effectiveness of European bioenergy research programmes, through coordination and cooperation between EU Member States

For more information please visit our website:
www.eranetbioenergy.net

All Partners of ERA-NET Bioenergy





SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

